

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 3, 2017

The Honorable Rex W. Tillerson
Secretary of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

The Honorable Wilbur L. Ross
Secretary of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Tillerson and Secretary Ross:

We write to respectfully urge you to complete the Export Control Reform (ECR) Initiative, which was launched nearly eight years ago and has bipartisan support in Congress.

The very basis of this effort is the common sense notion that products intended only for military use should be subject to the highest standards of security and oversight, while regulation of products with general commercial applications should not unnecessarily hinder American business and innovation.

As part of the initiative, regulatory responsibility for dual use items on the United States Munitions List (USML) has been transferred from the State Department to the Commerce Department. So far, eighteen categories have been transferred. Only three remain, and these remaining categories contain the same sorts of constitutionally-protected firearms and ammunition owned by millions of law-abiding Americans. We understand that draft regulations exist to finish the job in this export reform initiative.

In July 2016, the State Department issued guidance that characterized many traditional gunsmiths as “manufacturers” and required them to register as exporters under the Arms Export Control Act (AECA) and the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR), and pay a \$2,250 annual fee. This is unnecessary and is having serious and negative consequences on the hundreds of thousands of small and medium-sized gunsmiths who operate in our districts, as the vast majority of our constituents engaged in gunsmithing make little to no income from their activities and often do it as a hobby or side business. It makes no sense for them to be required to pay \$2,250 and register under AECA and ITAR. Furthermore, not only does the guidance expand registration to gunsmiths who do not “manufacture” firearms, it also runs counter to the intent of AECA and ITAR, which are meant to control the production and exportation of highly sensitive military materiel, not the domestic repair or maintenance of a legal, common, and constitutionally-protected product.

Completion of the Export Control Reform initiative would resolve the problems raised by the July 2016 guidance. It would also enhance our national security and better protect America's most sensitive defense technologies, while improving U.S. competitiveness by reducing unnecessary restrictions on exports of less sensitive commercial items.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue and we urge you to publish the proposed rules to move the remaining three categories on the USML to Commerce.

Sincerely,



Steve Scalise (LA-01)



Michael T. McCaul (TX-10)



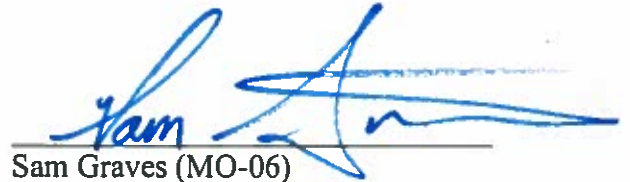
Chris Stewart (UT-02)



Doug Lamborn (CO-05)



Bradley Byrne (AL-01)



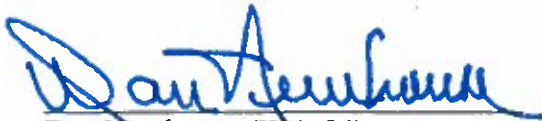
Sam Graves (MO-06)



Ted Yoho (FL-03)



Clay Higgins (LA-03)




Dan Newhouse (WA-04)



Jackie Walorski (IN-02)



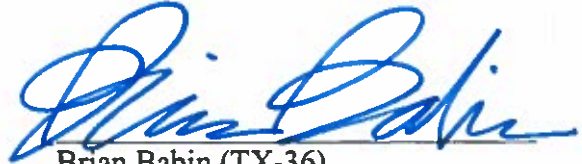
Tom McClintock (CA-04)



Vicki Hartzler (MO-04)



Steve Pearce (NM-02)




Brian Babin (TX-36)




Chuck Fleischmann (TN-03)



Roger Marshall (KS-01)

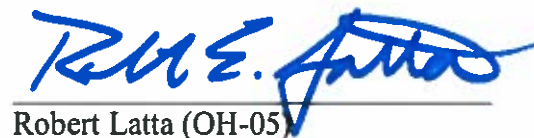

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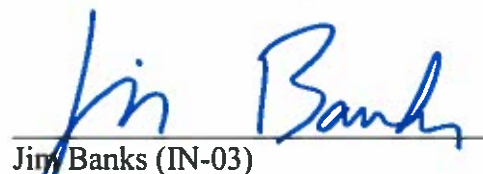

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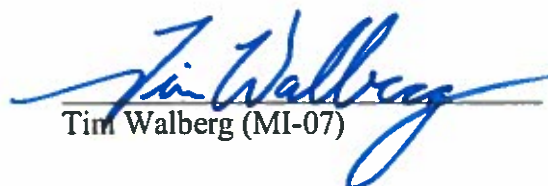

Phil Roe, M.D. (TN-01)


Jody Hice (GA-10)


Robert Latta (OH-05)

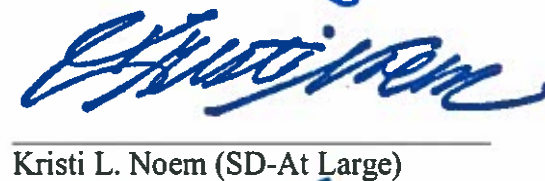

Adrian Smith (NE-03)

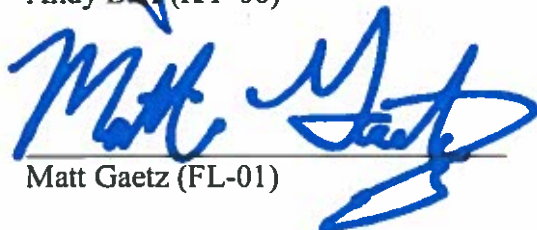

Jim Banks (IN-03)

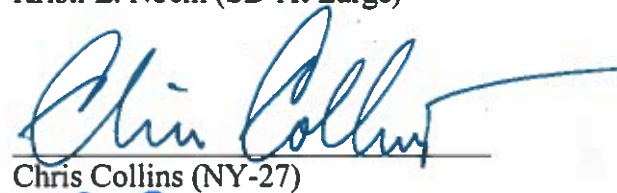

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David Rouzer (NC-07)

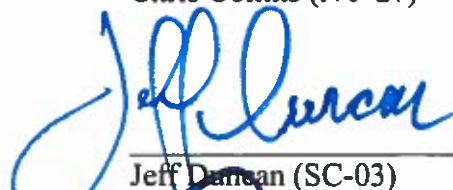

Andy Barr (KY-06)



Kristi L. Noem (SD-At Large)

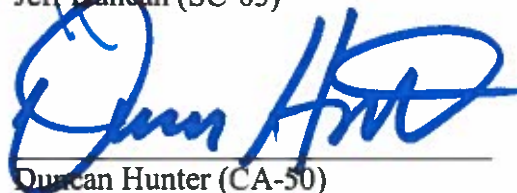

Matt Gaetz (FL-01)



Chris Collins (NY-27)


Lamar Smith (TX-21)



Jeff Duncan (SC-03)


Tom Marino (PA-10)

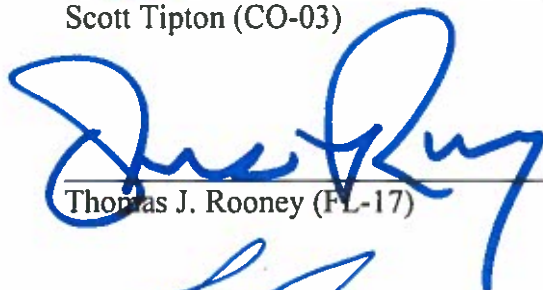

Duncan Hunter (CA-50)


Collin Peterson (MN-07)



Rob Wittman (VA-01)



Scott Tipton (CO-03)



Mark E. Amodei (NV-02)

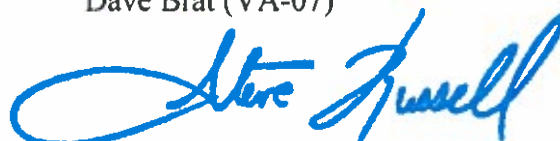

Thomas J. Rooney (FL-17)


Brian Fitzpatrick (PA-08)


Ralph L. Abraham, M.D. (LA-05)


Dave Brat (VA-07)


Walter Jones (NC-03)

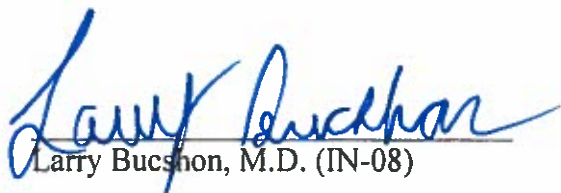

Steve Russell (OK-05)



Richard Hudson (NC-08)



Trent Franks (AZ-08)


Steve Chabot (OH-01)


Marsha Blackburn (TN-07)


Larry Bucshon, M.D. (IN-08)


Patrick J. Tiberi (OH-12)



Charles W. Dent (PA-15)


David G. Valadao (CA-21)



Gregg Harper (MS-03)



John Ratcliffe (TX-04)


James Comer (KY-01)



Tom Graves (GA-14)


Mike Johnson (LA-04)

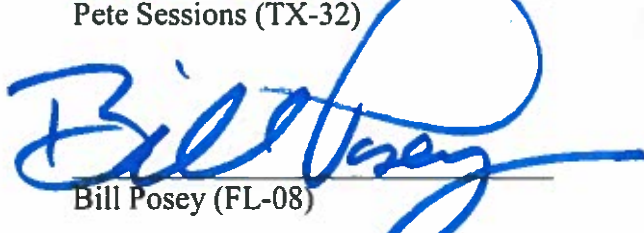

Warren Davidson (OH-08)


Kevin Cramer (ND-At Large)



George Holding (NC-02)



Pete Sessions (TX-32)



Glenn "GT" Thompson (PA-05)



Bill Posey (FL-08)

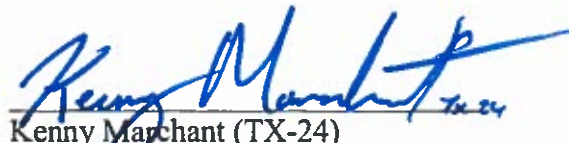

Francis Rooney (FL-19)


David Young (IA-03)


Randy Weber (TX-14)


John Moolenaar (MI-04)


Andy Harris, M.D. (MD-01)


Kenny Marchant (TX-24)


Mark Meadows (NC-11)



Daniel Webster (FL-11)



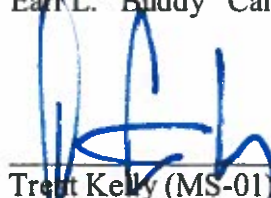
Raúl R. Labrador (ID-01)



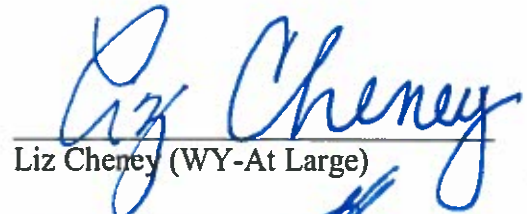
Earl L. "Buddy" Carter (GA-01)



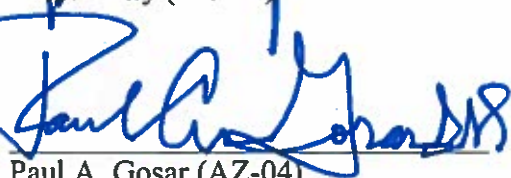
Sam Johnson (TX-03)



Trent Kelly (MS-01)



Liz Cheney (WY-At Large)



Paul A. Gosar (AZ-04)



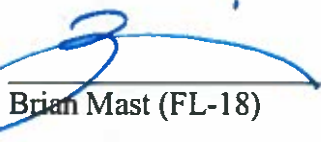
H. Morgan Griffin (VA-09)



Brad Wenstrup (OH-02)



David Joyce (OH-14)



Brian Mast (FL-18)



Rick W. Allen (GA-12)



Evan Jenkins (WV-03)



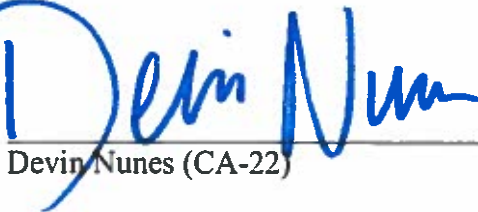
Ron DeSantis (FL-06)



Mark Walker (NC-06)



Louie Gohmert (TX-01)



Devin Nunes (CA-22)



Doug LaMalfa (CA-01)



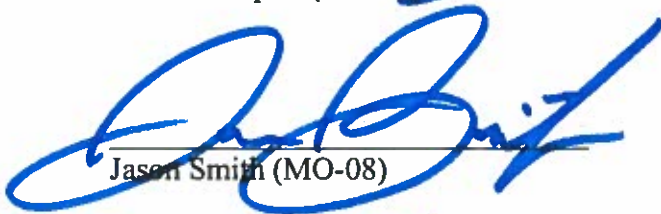
Paul Mitchell (MI-10)



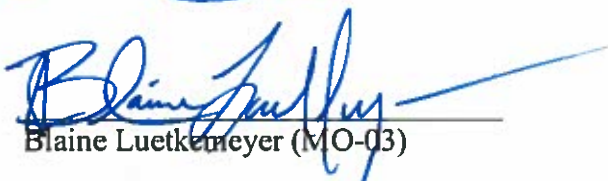
Tim Walz (MN-01)



Bruce Poliquin (ME-02)



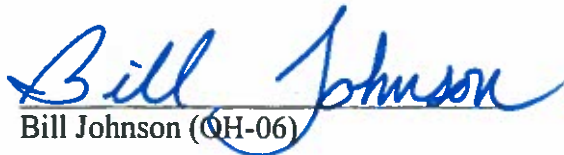
Jason Smith (MO-08)



Blaine Luetkemeyer (MO-03)



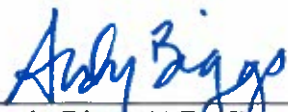
Ken Buck (CO-04)



Bill Johnson (OH-06)



Markwayne Mullin (OK-02)



Andy Biggs (AZ-05)



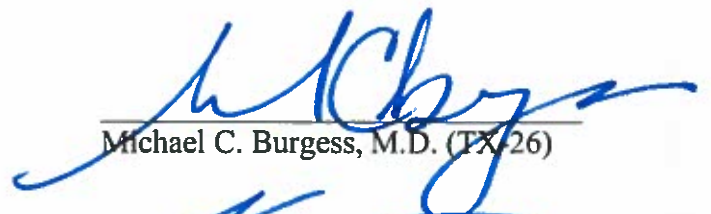
Gus M. Bilirakis (FL-12)



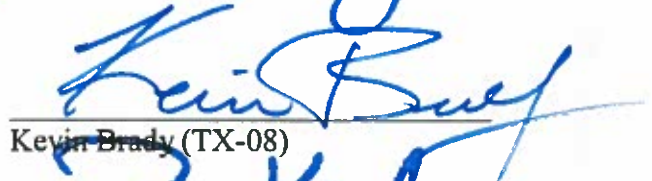
Robert Aderholt (AL-04)



Neal Dunn, M.D. (FL-02)



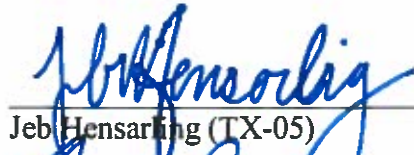
Michael C. Burgess, M.D. (TX-26)



Kevin Brady (TX-08)



Ron Kind (WI-03)



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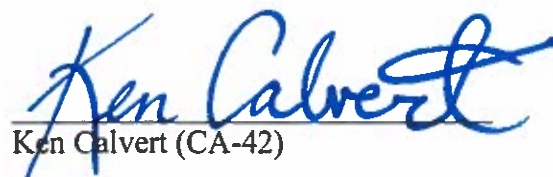



Michael E. Simpson (ID-02)




Elise Stefanik (NY-21)


Rob Bishop (UT-01)


Ken Calvert (CA-42)


French Hill (AR-02)



Virginia Foxx (NC-05)



Steve Stivers (OH-15)


John Culberson (TX-07)

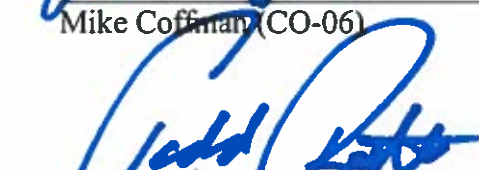

Lloyd Smucker (PA-16)


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Bill Flores (TX-17)

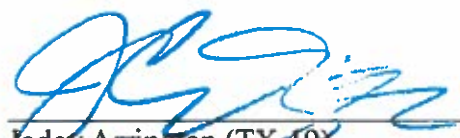

Mike Coffman (CO-06)

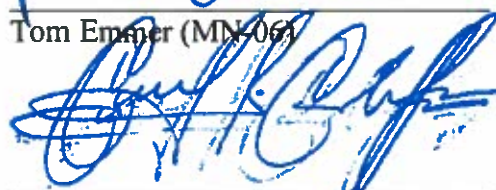

Mike Rogers (AL-03)

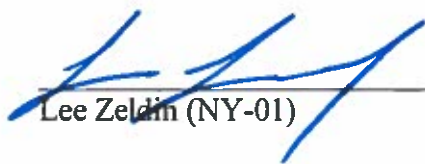

Todd Rokita (IN-04)



Jeff Dorn (CA-10)


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Henry Cuellar (TX-28)



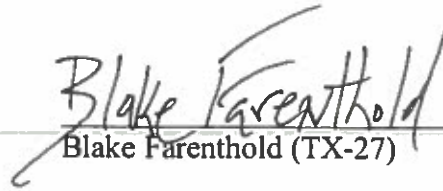
Dennis A. Ross (FL-15)



Garret Graves (LA-06)



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Blake Farenthold (TX-27)



Austin Scott (GA-08)



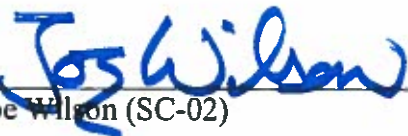
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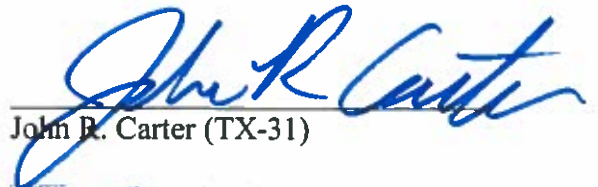
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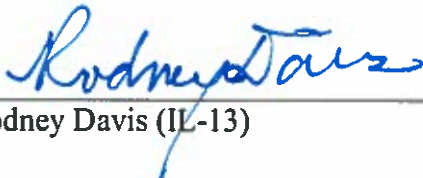
Greg Walden (OR-02)



Joe Wilson (SC-02)



John R. Carter (TX-31)



Rodney Davis (IL-13)



Bob Gibbs (OH-07)



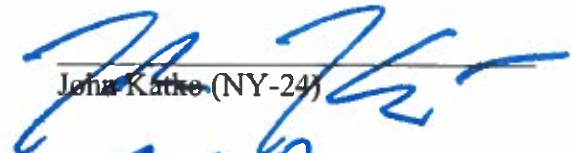
Tom Cole (OK-04)



Bennie G. Thompson (MS-02)



Peter DeFazio (OR-04)



John Katko (NY-24)



Sean P. Duffy (WI-07)



Jack Bergman (MI-01)

Claudia Tenney
Claudia Tenney (NY-22)

Don Young
Don Young (AK-At Large)

Keith Rothfus
Keith Rothfus (PA-12)